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total visible supply 9,500,000 bales. As experience shows that, in ordinary times, it takes 10,000,000 bales of American-grown cotton to supply the demand, the above estimate would leave a shortage of 500,000 bales. It is claimed that this deficit will inevitably cause an advance in price. Although cotton is a local crop it forms so large an element in the prosperity of a large section of the country that everybody is interested in seeing it command a good price, and all the more now because Southern planters have been in hard luck for some years past.

## A DISMAL FAILURE.

The silver Democratic conference in Washington seems to be a dismal failure. It was announced as a conference of leaders, but aside from a few ex-Confederate politicians in Congress, few leaders or few rank and file were present. Those who look for the Democratic leaders who are silverites or who are alleged to be silverites, representing Indiana, will find but one name representing the State, Mr. A. W. Clark. Five hundred voters in Indiana never heard of Mr. Clark where one can be found who could tell about him. He is the editor of a Democratic paper in Greensburg, If the Journal is correctly informed, no Democrat will recognize him as a leader, and yet, he speaks for all Indiana. Mr. Heinrichsen, of Illinois, shares with Governor Altgeld the leadership of one of the Democratic parties in Illinois. He may be a leader. Ex-Congressman Yoder, of Ohio, may be a leader, now that the meaning of the word has been broadened to mean anybody who appears unauthorized at a conference. Not a self-constituted leader appeared in the conference from the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania or New Jersey in the East, and not one from Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska or Kansas, and but one each from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. And this is the response to a call of leaders issued at the Memphis convention, of which Senator Turpie was president and one of the movers for the Washington conference.

Why was not Senator Turpie there with his stagnant wisdom? Has he taken note of the golden silence of his senior and scrambled down from the temporary notoriety which he achieved two months ago among those of the silverites who do not know him? There was the late Representative Brookshire in Washington and about the edge of the so-called conference, but he disappeared. Have the alleged stipends of General Warner and the bumptious Bryan, of Nebraska, been reduced or cut off, that they were not there to confer? Were the Democratic silver leaders?

No one thing so clearly demonstrated the rapid decline of the silver cause as the fact that the silver cause of last May and June, and the failure of this conference, so-called leaders. The call was heralded with flourish of trumpets to the Democratic leaders of the free-silver movement throughout the country, but not a prominent Democrat from the North appears. In fact, the only men ever heard of in the short list of leaders are Senators Harris, of Tennessee; Jones, of Arkansas, and Daniel, of Virginia. The slogan of such leaders cannot recall the struggles from the Democratic silver army, much less attract recruits.

## AS TO CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

Indianapolis has become, in appearance, more of a city during the past five years than it did in the preceding years, or would in the next ten if the policy of city improvements had not been adopted five or six years ago. When that policy was adopted Indianapolis had not three miles of paved streets. No worse streets could be found in the country than were the principal avenues after a heavy rainfall. Many of them were a succession of quagmires, and none of them could be driven over at a fair pace with safety. During the past five years a policy has been pursued which has given Indianapolis many miles of good streets. The system of drainage adopted by its class in the country. This change has cost money, in fact a good deal of money. Doubtless, under the Board of Public Works, some streets have been paved which many think should have been left as they were. Perhaps the work has proceeded too rapidly, but if it is a good thing, the sooner the streets which should be paved are paved the better. There has been much complaint, for, while every public-spirited citizen is emphatic for the improvement of the streets, many strenuously object when the streets upon which their property is located are put under contract. Undoubtedly, much hardship has been caused by the street and sewer improvements, but that is a result of the system which has long prevailed of charging the cost of improvement to the adjacent property instead of making a general levy to defray the cost of them.

Considering separated cases and special localities, the system of levies for sewers seems unjust, particularly that feature which bases the assessment upon linear feet, regardless of the value of the property, instead of basing it upon the value of the property. The principle seems wrong; still, it affords an illustration of the Henry George plan of single taxation. But, whether just or unjust, the system was adopted either in the charter granted in 1891 or by the first Board of Public Works. Once put into operation, that system of assessment could not be changed without causing inextricable confusion. The system of drainage was adopted by the Sullivan administration. Those who should know say that it is the only adequate system. At any rate, it was adopted before the present administration came in, and all that it could do was to carry out a system already begun and for which contracts had been made. Whoever is Mayor, the work on the sewer system will continue to completion. Some comprehensive system the city was obliged to have. Such being the case, no administration can be fairly censured for pushing the work unless it shall show favoritism in granting contracts, which has not been charged against any administration.

Much of the street improvement of the past two years was contracted for by the officials of the two years previous, and this administration will leave a number of contracts to be completed under the next. But the work has generally been well done, and there is no intelligent man who will not believe that it has generally been done for the lowest market price. There have been no scandals about the letting of contracts—no collusion between officials and contractors.

tractors. In fact, the most that can be said against the Board of Public Works is that they have proceeded too rapidly with the improvements. That is a matter of judgment. Just what pace would give general satisfaction would be difficult to determine. There has been no more general howl than that made at Mayor Denny's board because it did not rush into extensive improvements at the outset. If boards only improved the streets for which the property-owners demanded improvements, we should never have wretched streets and would never become a modern city. And now that the work has been begun, it must be carried forward on the sewerage system and also on the streets. Fewer miles may be paved, but to stop short in the improvement of streets would be a greater injustice to those who have paid and are paying for good streets than the paving of other streets needing it can be to those who own property along them. Such being the case, to attempt to get even with a set of officials by voting against the ticket of the party they represent seems petulant and absurd.

## A GUBERNATORIAL LABEL SUIT.

The Governor of Vermont has brought a suit for libel against a newspaper in that State, laying his damages at \$50,000. The suit grew out of the prohibitory law in Vermont. The Governor owns a hotel at Burlington, which he runs on his own account, and also a drug store across the street from the hotel. The paper charged him with violating the law by selling or furnishing intoxicating liquors to the guests of the hotel. He denied the charge and demanded a retrial, which was refused, hence the suit. It is said the prosecution will not attempt to deny that liquor was obtained by guests of the hotel, but will undertake to prove that it was not obtained in the house nor through any responsible agent of the hotel owner, but purchased outside by bell-boys acting on their own motion. The Governor says if guests of the house have persuaded any of his employees to act as their agents to procure liquor for them, such employees must have obtained it outside of the hotel, and in so doing they acted on their own responsibility, and at their own peril. To this the paper quotes the law: "If a person by himself, clerk, servant or agent, sells, furnishes or gives away," etc. The case involves a close question as to the responsibility of an employer for acts of his agents in the line of his employment. If it should appear that liquor was furnished by the bell-boys or waiters in the regular line of business, and that the profits went to the hotel, the Governor would probably be held responsible, but not if his employees were doing a side business on their own responsibility and account. Even in that case, however, if it should appear that they bought the liquor at the Governor's drug store, across the way, it would place him in rather a bad predicament, and if it was as bad as drug-store liquor has the reputation of being, the jury may give a verdict of damages against the plaintiff. The moral of the case seems to be that the Governor in a prohibition State had better keep out of the hotel and drug business.

## A BIT OF POLITICAL HISTORY.

Secretary Hoke Smith, who is now making administration speeches in Georgia, recently alluded to Senator Morgan, of Alabama, in a way that has called out an interesting card from the latter. He characterizes Smith's allusion to him as "an arrogant and unworthy insinuation as to the motives that influenced me in accepting a place on the Bering sea commission under the appointment of a Republican President."

One of the unsettled questions that will come before the next Congress is that of the British claim for damages for alleged seizures of British vessels in Bering sea. This is the claim which the late Secretary Gresham undertook to settle by the allowance of a lump sum, which was not ratified by Congress. British claim was for \$542,169, and Secretary Gresham agreed to pay \$425,000, and an appropriation of that sum was included in the general deficiency bill and defeated first in the House and afterward in the Senate, where the attempt was repeated. Senator Morgan opposed the appropriation on the ground that many of the claims it was proposed to allow were without any foundation, and the amount it was proposed to pay grossly excessive. As payment of the amount had been recommended by the President in his annual message, Senator Morgan was regarded as hostile to the administration, and hence Secretary Smith's attack upon him.

In his card explaining his connection with the Bering sea arbitration tribunal of 1892, which was appointed by President Harrison, Senator Morgan makes some interesting statements. As to the origin of the tribunal he says:

Twenty British sealing vessels were seized during Mr. Cleveland's first term as President. But, as it is well known, they were seized before or since that term, except under Mr. Cleveland's orders. If the President had not recommended that the demand of our national honor was imperative, that "no step backward" should be taken, the vessels would have been released. Mr. Morgan, however, shrank from the maintenance of the high ground taken in this case. He recommended that the vessels be released, and he permitted the captured vessels in the later cases of seizure to virtually escape from custody when they chose to do so. There was enough to have forced a settlement of this question in Mr. Cleveland's first administration, but the two governments prevailed, and the task of settling it fell upon President Harrison.

Great Britain, who had the sole right to complain of these seizures, did not force the question to the point of hostility, but insisted, first, on negotiations, and then, when that had failed, on arbitration of the kind which was recommended by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan had promised Great Britain to stop the capture of vessels, sending the captured vessels home, and went out of office leaving these questions unsettled as a legacy to Mr. Harrison's administration.

The President and the Senate found no reason for defending Mr. Cleveland's policy with any preference to the one which peacefully negotiated with Lord Salisbury, and when negotiations disclosed the wide difference between the two governments as to their technical legal rights, all parties and nearly all the people preferred to settle them by arbitration rather than by war. The whole situation was created by Democratic action—first, in the forcible seizure of the fishing vessels, and second, in converting these semi-belligerent acts into lawsuits—and all Democrats felt that they had much at stake on the result.

This, in effect, charges Secretary Bayard with having pursued a truckling policy during Mr. Cleveland's first administration, and charges the administration and the Democratic party with bringing on an international complication which they were unable to settle and which was left as a legacy to the Harrison administration.

Of the two arbitrators on the part of the United States appointed by President Harrison, Justice Harlan and Senator Morgan, one was a Republican and the

other a Democrat, and of the four lawyers appointed to represent the interests of the United States, three were Democrats and one a Republican. On this point Senator Morgan says:

Our party was and is responsible for using the means that were employed both for the raising and the settlement of these questions. It was the Democratic responsibility that Mr. Harrison devolved upon us when, out of a body of arbitrators and counsel, and Mr. Secretary Foster, the agent, selected by him—seven in all—he selected four Democrats and three Republicans. For this he suffered censure at the hands of his political friends.

As for himself, Senator Morgan says he was surprised and embarrassed by his appointment as a member of the tribunal, because he was a Democratic Senator, and he only decided to accept after consulting with a number of prominent Democrats in the Senate. He felt that he could only decline on one of three grounds, viz., either that he was unfit for the service, or that a Democrat should accept, or that a Republican should accept, but an appointment from a Republican President, or that it was the duty of all Democrats to declare for war instead of arbitration as a means of settling the Bering sea controversy. As he was not willing to place himself in either of these positions, he accepted the appointment.

It may be added that Senator Morgan's connection with the arbitration was highly honorable to himself and in keeping with his recent patriotic record. He was the only arbitrator who voted to sustain the claim of the United States on certain important points, and on the other questions he voted with Justice Harlan. His card is at once a complete vindication of his own motives in accepting an appointment at the hands of a Republican President, and a stinging rebuke of Mr. Cleveland's first administration for its blundering mismanagement of the Bering sea question.

A dispatch from Brussels reports Mr. Snape, an English delegate to the international parliamentary conference on peace arbitration, now in session there, as saying "it was regrettable that the Congress of the United States had refused to note the Bering sea commission, whereas Great Britain had not only large Alabama indemnity." Mr. Snape seems to be laboring under an excess of ignorance. The Alabama Claims Commission made a distinct award of a definite amount of damages against Great Britain, while the Bering sea tribunal simply decided certain principles and facts and left the ascertainment of damages to subsequent negotiations. What Congress refused to make an appropriation for was not the award of the tribunal, but an exorbitant claim made by the British minister. When the claim is properly investigated and purged of unjust items, it will be paid. Meanwhile, in view of Great Britain's recent refusal to arbitrate the Nicaraguan and Venezuelan controversies, her representatives ought not to have much to say regarding international arbitration.

The beauties of the income tax law continue to be demonstrated. Official records show that the total amount collected under the law was \$77,000, the cost of collecting it was \$77,000, and Treasury officials try to break the force of this statement by saying that the expense was largely caused by arrangements made to put the law into operation, and that it would have cost only \$20,000 more to collect the entire tax than it did the amount collected. However, this may be, the fact that it cost \$77,000 to collect \$77,000 stands as another evidence of Democratic and Populist blundering. The Treasury Department is now engaged in refunding the amount collected, and, strictly speaking, the expense of that proceeding ought to be set down to the same account.

So far as known, no writer on evolution has taken account of the steady and remarkable growth of hallstones. There was a time when the regulation size was about that of a small pea. From this it has increased through various stages to the size of a marble, a hickory nut and a hen's egg, till now we hear of hallstones "bigger than a stone" and "bigger than a hen's egg." How much larger. Can it be that this continuous growth is an effort on the part of nature to respond to the increasing demand for new sensations, or what is it, and where will it end?

The public will breathe easier since a medical expert in a Missouri murder trial has testified that there is no such thing as sub-acute hallucinatory paranoia. He says that the moment the systematization ceases paranoia ceases and confusion instantly begins. Stick a pin there.

The government exhibit at the Atlanta Exposition will include a separate exhibit of inventions by women, numbering about 1,000. A list of the inventions due to women has been made up by the government. The exhibit will include a much greater number.

That London editor who thinks American sportsmen and athletes do not know how to swim and shoot and hunt, and who is heretofore uncomplaining way in which the Terre Haute baseball crowd takes its medicine.

The English magazines afford a good measure of "cream" this month, which has been skimmed by the electric. The latest issue of the English magazines is a ten-cent list, but has not thereby lessened its pictorial and literary attractions. Readers of the old-time Godey would hardly recognize the new list.

The latest booklets in Elbert Hubbard's series of "Little Journeys to the Homes of the Good and Great" have Thackeray and Wordsworth for their themes. They are pleasant essays, having an agreeable individual touch, but contain an occasional colloquialism that strikes harshly.

The mid-August issue of the Chap Book is dedicated to an interesting collection of five acts called "The Wooing of Penelope." It is a clever bit of rhyming, but the "incident" is of very ancient flavor and hardly justifies the space given to it. The dramatic effect is not very good, and the "incident" is of very ancient flavor and hardly justifies the space given to it.

Speaking of people who read an editorial writer in Scribner points out that the old rule that a man may be judged by what he reads does not apply to a certain class of these persons. "To the habitual reader," he says, "reading becomes as necessary as eating and drinking. It does not seem to make any violent amount of difference what he reads, but he must sit in a chair and read, and his mind on a printed page. You can no more judge such a person by the books he keeps than you can judge a lunatic by the qualities of his keepers. His reading is habit. It never turns to energy, never influences action. He sleeps better if it is all."

The August Scribner is called a fiction number, but it is a few readers will not consider it so. It is a collection of five acts called "The Wooing of Penelope." It is a clever bit of rhyming, but the "incident" is of very ancient flavor and hardly justifies the space given to it. The dramatic effect is not very good, and the "incident" is of very ancient flavor and hardly justifies the space given to it.

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Of the two arbitrators on the part of the United States appointed by President Harrison, Justice Harlan and Senator Morgan, one was a Republican and the

and Octave Thanet—are not at their best. Davis's contribution, to put it plainly, is twaddle; Hope's is the improbable history of a child, a people who do not know their own minds for three consecutive days, while Octave Thanet brings her pathos to the verge of the sublime. The Godey dramatic piece is shown in Noah Brooks's story.

The wide, if transient, popularity of a class of objectionable novels is abundantly accounted for by a writer in Blackwood's Magazine. The article, which is reproduced in the current Eclectic under the title "Tommyrotics," declares that what we lack nowadays is a school of sound, fearless and vigorous criticism. "The public, who, in things literary and artistic, are regally a flock of sheep, knows not where to look for guidance. The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed—unless it be with the shrill piping of rival rollers. Scribblers and poets, and novelists and peace-makers across the literary stage, and each one tells the others what to do. The public, who is himself a writer of verse, thinks that Robinson's poetry unites the majesty of Milton with the simplicity of Shakespeare, the music and idealism of Shelley—all within the covers of a single little volume, which, moreover, is a masterpiece of 'mesalliance,' or are they simply engaging in the good, old-fashioned business of scratching their heads and wondering what to do. He concludes that it is the latter, and that the public, being misled temporarily, accepts the verdict and reads the trash as it comes."

## HUBBLES IN THE AIR.

The Dark Horse. Why waste his face that worried look, That shade of agonized? He is engaged in sitting on His presidential bed.

## Circumstances Alter Cases.

Mudge—Do you think a gentleman can have an excuse for getting into a bar-room fight?

Yabley—Not unless he has his crowd with him.

## Ambiguous.

Edith—And what do you think of mamma, Reginald?

Reginald—Er—I think she will play the part of mother-in-law in a way to leave nothing to be desired.

## He Had One.

"Why don't you run a woman's page?" asked the life visitor.

"What do you mean?" rejoined the editor of the Plunkville Bugle, triumphantly spreading out the third page of his paper, where Jones & Peabody announced bargains at all the way from 25 cents to \$1.98.

## ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

One of the clubs of Pittsburgh, the Bohemian, has opened a subscription for the erection of a monument to the memory of Stephen G. Foster, the composer of the "Swanee Song" and "Old Folks at Home" and the "Old Kentucky Home."

Beer frozen to the consistency of the ordinary "water ices" of the ice-cream parlors is now served in the public gardens of Philadelphia on Sundays as a means of combating the heat of the day. It is called "hops traps," and is vastly popular.

The assessed valuation of the town of Sioux City, Ia., this year is little more than last year's. Last year it was put at \$17,000,000, while this year it is \$16,800,000. The amazing contrast mostly represents the difference between the estimated value of real estate and the actual worth.

Dr. Nordau is indignant over the statement that his real name is Simon Sudfeld. He says that at the age of fifteen, for reasons that he will not divulge, he assumed the name of Nordau, and in 1873 had his official and legally changed in Hungary. His real name is Nordau and not Sudfeld.

Artist John Sargent seldom makes an error in his historical paintings, but a curious one is claimed to have been discovered in "The Banquet." Not only has Mr. Sargent omitted the eighth commandment from the tablets of stone, but he has used wrong letters in the phrase